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EXAMINER

COSIMANO, EDWARD R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3629

DATE MAILED: 07/27/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/328,417

Applicant(s)

CORREA JR, MANUEL A.

Examiner

Edward R. Cosimano

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[Handwritten signature]

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 4/5/04 & 4/22/04.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 82-87 and 89-112 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) none is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 96 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 82-87, 92-95 and 98-112 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 6/9/99; 10/28/02; & 4/22/04 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner. Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a). Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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1. Applicant should note the changes to patent practice and procedure:
 - A) effective December 01, 1997 as published in the Federal Register, Vol 62, No. 197, Friday October 10, 1997;
 - B) effective November 07, 2000 as published in the Federal Register, Vol 65, No. 54603, September 08, 2000; and
 - C) Amendment in revised format, Vol. 1267 of the Official Gazette published February 25, 2003.
2. Applicant's claim for the benefit of an earlier filing data under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) is acknowledged.
3. The proposed substitute/corrected drawings filed April 22, 2004 has been approved in regard to figs. 1, 2, 3, 5 & 9.
4. The drawings filed April 22, 2004 are objected to because
 - A) the following errors have been noted in the drawings:
 - (1) The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR § 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description:
 - (a) 102', 104' & 106' of fig. 4 as this figure is described in the paragraph located at page 17, lines 14-22, "Figure 4 is a block diagram ... white areas 102', 104', and 106' are located. White areas 102', 104', and 106' correspond to the sender return address area 102, the customer return address area 104, and postage permit address area 106 of originating sheet (Part 1) 100. Note area 106 of originating sheet (Part 1) 100. Note boxes 102', 106' and 104' on Figure 4 ... on Figure 3. This is necessary to insure scanability.)".
 - (2) as can be seen in fig. 4 and from the and the context of the paragraph located at page 17, lines 14-22, "Figure 4 is a block diagram ... white areas 102', 104', and 106' are located. White areas 102', 104', and 106' correspond to the sender return address area 102, the customer return address area 104, and postage permit address area 106 of originating sheet (Part 1) 100. Note area 106

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of originating sheet (Part 1) 100. Note boxes 102', 106' and 104' on Figure 4 ... on Figure 3. This is necessary to insure scanability.)", in fig. 4:

- (a) "102" should be -102'--;
- (b) "104" should be -104'--; and
- (c) "106" should be -106'--.

(3) The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR § 1.84(p)(4) because:

(a) reference character "600" has been used to designate both:

(i) "Part VI" of system 10, note the paragraph located at page 13, lines 4-9, "The several sheets shown in Figure 1 include a Part I 100 which is attached to a Part II 200, which is attached to a Part III 300, which is attached to a Part IV 400, which is attached to a Part V 500, which is in turn attached to a Part VI 600. Part I 100, Part II 200, Part III 300, Part IV 400, Part V 500, and Part VI 600 are attached on right side edge 40 in order to strengthen portions of system 10 that undergo postal processing by processing equipment used in delivery of mail."; and

(ii) the back of "Part III" in fig. 6.

And note the consistent use of:

(a) reference number "300" to designate "Part III" of system 10; and

(b) reference number "600" to designate "Part VI" of system 10;

through out the remainder of the disclosure.

(4) as can be seen in figs. 1 & 6 and from the context of the paragraphs located:

(a) at page 13, lines 4-9, "The several sheets shown in Figure 1 include a Part I 100 which is attached to a Part II 200, which is attached to a Part III 300, which is attached to a Part IV 400, which is attached to

a Part V 500, which is in turn attached to a Part VI 600. Part I 100, Part II 200, Part III 300, Part IV 400, Part V 500, and Part VI 600 are attached on right side edge 40 in order to strengthen portions of system 10 that undergo postal processing by processing equipment used in delivery of mail.”; and

(b) between page 19, line 17, and page 20, line 10, “Figure 6 is a block diagram of the back face of billing statement (Part III) 300 ... (Part III) 300, ... (Part III) 300, area 110 shown in Figures 2 and 3.”, in fig. 6 “600” should be -300--, and note the consistent use of reference number “300” to designate “Part III” of system 10 through out the remainder of the disclosure.

(5) The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR § 1.84(p)(4) because reference character:

(a) "400", note Fig. 1 and the paragraph located at page 13, lines 4-9, “The several sheets shown in Figure 1 include a Part I 100 which is attached to a Part II 200, which is attached to a Part III 300, which is attached to a Part IV 400, which is attached to a Part V 500, which is in turn attached to a Part VI 600. Part I 100, Part II 200, Part III 300, Part IV 400, Part V 500, and Part VI 600 are attached on right side edge 40 in order to strengthen portions of system 10 that undergo postal processing by processing equipment used in delivery of mail.”; and

(b) "700" note Fig. 7 and the paragraphs located:

(b)(1) at page 20, lines 11-22, “Figure 7 is a block diagram of a front face of Part IV, ... in comparison because Figure 6 is a back view.”; and

(b)(2) between page 21, line 15, and page 22, line 4, “Figure 8 is a block diagram of a back face of Part IV, which forms the same portion of the reply envelope shown in mirror

image of Figure 7. Figure 8 ... rate required to qualify for the best postage discounts.”;

have both been used to designate “Part IV 400” of system 10 and note the consistent use of reference number “400” to designate “Part IV” of system 10 through out the remainder of the disclosure.

(6) as can be seen in figs. 1, 7 & 8 and from the context of the paragraphs located:

(a) at page 13, lines 4-9, “The several sheets shown in Figure 1 include a Part I 100 which is attached to a Part II 200, which is attached to a Part III 300, which is attached to a Part IV 400, which is attached to a Part V 500, which is in turn attached to a Part VI 600. Part I 100, Part II 200, Part III 300, Part IV 400, Part V 500, and Part VI 600 are attached on right side edge 40 in order to strengthen portions of system 10 that undergo postal processing by processing equipment used in delivery of mail.”;

(b) at page 20, lines 11-22, “Figure 7 is a block diagram of a front face of Part IV, ... in comparison because Figure 6 is a back view.”; and

(c) between page 21, line 15, and page 22, line 4, “Figure 8 is a block diagram of a back face of Part IV, which forms the same portion of the reply envelope shown in mirror image of Figure 7. Figure 8 ... rate required to qualify for the best postage discounts.”;

in fig. 7, “700” should be -400--, and note the consistent use of reference number “400” to designate “Part IV” of system 10 through out the remainder of the disclosure.

(7) as can be seen in figs. 1, 7 & 8 and from the context of the paragraphs located:

(a) at page 13, lines 4-9, “The several sheets shown in Figure 1 include a Part I 100 which is attached to a Part II 200, which is attached

to a Part III 300, which is attached to a Part IV 400, which is attached to a Part V 500, which is in turn attached to a Part VI 600. Part I 100, Part II 200, Part III 300, Part IV 400, Part V 500, and Part VI 600 are attached on right side edge 40 in order to strengthen portions of system 10 that undergo postal processing by processing equipment used in delivery of mail.”;

(b) at page 20, lines 11-22, “Figure 7 is a block diagram of a front face of Part IV, ... in comparison because Figure 6 is a back view.”; and

(c) between page 21, line 15, and page 22, line 4, “Figure 8 is a block diagram of a back face of Part IV, which forms the same portion of the reply envelope shown in mirror image of Figure 7. Figure 8 ... rate required to qualify for the best postage discounts.”;

in fig. 8, “800” should be ~~400~~-, and note the consistent use of reference number “400” to designate “Part IV” of system 10 through out the remainder of the disclosure.

(8) as can be seen in figs. 1 & 10 and from the context of the paragraphs located:

(a) at page 13, lines 4-9, “The several sheets shown in Figure 1 include a Part I 100 which is attached to a Part II 200, which is attached to a Part III 300, which is attached to a Part IV 400, which is attached to a Part V 500, which is in turn attached to a Part VI 600. Part I 100, Part II 200, Part III 300, Part IV 400, Part V 500, and Part VI 600 are attached on right side edge 40 in order to strengthen portions of system 10 that undergo postal processing by processing equipment used in delivery of mail.”; and

(b) at page 23, lines 3-10, “Figure 10 is a block diagram of a back face of Part V, ... flap 880 mentioned above in conjunction with Figure 8.”;

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in fig. 10, "1000" should be -500--, and note the consistent use of reference number "500" to designate "Part V" of system 10 through out the remainder of the disclosure.

(9) as can be seen in figs. 1 & 11 and from the context of the paragraphs located:

(a) at page 13, lines 4-9, "The several sheets shown in Figure 1 include a Part I 100 which is attached to a Part II 200, which is attached to a Part III 300, which is attached to a Part IV 400, which is attached to a Part V 500, which is in turn attached to a Part VI 600. Part I 100, Part II 200, Part III 300, Part IV 400, Part V 500, and Part VI 600 are attached on right side edge 40 in order to strengthen portions of system 10 that undergo postal processing by processing equipment used in delivery of mail."; and

(b) at page 23, lines 11-20, "Figure 11 is a block diagram of a back face of Part VI, ... front faces of outgoing envelope 20 and reply envelope 30.";

in fig. 10, "1100" should be -600--, and note the consistent use of reference number "600" to designate "Part VI" of system 10 through out the remainder of the disclosure.

(10) The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR § 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference sign(s) not mentioned in the description:

(a) 1111a of fig. 11 as this figure is described in the paragraphs between:

(i) page 23, line 11, and page 24, line 10, "Figure 11 is a block diagram of a back face of Part VI, ... billing statement (Part III) 300 or reply envelope 30."; and

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(ii) page 27, lines 11-23, "The positioning of tab 1111 on the bottom backside ... accidentally being snagged and opened while traveling through the postal equipment."

4.1 A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

4.2 Applicant is required to submit a proposed drawing correction in reply to this Office action. However, formal correction of the noted defect may be deferred until after the examiner has considered the proposed drawing correction. Failure to timely submit the proposed drawing correction will result in the abandonment of the application.

5. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

A) as required by 37 CFR § 1.84(p(5)) and 37 CFR § 1.121(e) the specification lacks an explicit reference to the nature of:

(1) reference legend(s):

(a) 700 of fig. 7, see above;

(b) 800 of fig. 8, see above;

(b) 1000 of fig. 10, see above;

(d) 1100 of fig. 11, see above;

(e) 1111a of fig. 11 as this figure is described in the paragraphs

between:

(i) page 23, line 11, and page 24, line 10, "Figure 11 is a block diagram of a back face of Part VI, ... billing statement (Part III) 300 or reply envelope 30."; and

(ii) page 27, lines 11-23, "The positioning of tab 1111 on the bottom backside ... accidentally being snagged and opened while traveling through the postal equipment."

In this regard, it is noted that merely mentioning either a feature or a number with out mentioning the device or operation or number or feature relies on the drawing to provide support for the disclosure and not to aid

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in the understanding of the invention, as is the purpose of the drawings (37 CFR § 1.81(a,b)).

Appropriate correction is required.

6. The specification and drawings have not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification or drawings. Applicant should note the requirements of 37 CFR § 1.74, § 1.75, § 1.84(o,p(5)), § 1.121(a)-1.121(f) & § 1.121(h)-1.121(i).

7. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. § 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

7.1 Claims 82, 85, 91, 93, 94, 97, 104 & 112, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by either Bowen et al (5,011,069) or Elmlinger (5,248,082).

7.1.1 In regard to claim 82, 91, 93, 94, 97, 104 & 112, either Bowen et al ('069) or Elmlinger ('082) discloses a multiple layer/ply mailer, where the first and second layers/plies are glued together in order to form a useable return envelope, a third layer/ply above the second layer/ply contains the bill/message, a fourth layer/ply above the bill/message layer/ply combined with the first layer/ply forms the out going envelope, and a fifth layer/ply above the fourth layer/ply that forms a removable cover sheet. Where information printed/applied on/to the cover sheet is selectively vertically transferred to the appropriate locations on the second/third/fourth layers/plies by using selectively applied image transfer coatings.

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7.1.2 It is noted that in the mailers of either Bowen et al ('069) or Elmlinger ('082) both the out going envelope and the reply envelope are physically attached to one another at the time the out going envelope is mailed to the recipient. As the recipient opens the mailer of either Bowen et al ('069) or Elmlinger ('082), the recipient physically separates both the front cover of the out going envelope and statement sheet/page from the remaining parts of the mailer of either Bowen et al ('069) or Elmlinger ('082). This physical separation of the various parts of the mailer of either Bowen et al ('069) or Elmlinger ('082) would be understood by one of ordinary skill as:

A) physically destroying the out going envelope and thereby rendering the out going envelope useless; and

B) physically separates both the reply envelope from the out going mailer.

This would be the case even though the back of the out going envelope is reused as the back of the reply envelope in the mailers of either Bowen et al ('069) or Elmlinger ('082), since the out going envelope does not physically exist after it has been opened.

7.1.3 In regard to claim 85, since one of ordinary skill would not want the mailer of either Bowen et al ('069) or Elmlinger ('082) to be destroyed by the postal processing equipment, it would have been inherent to one of ordinary skill at the time the invention was made that each of the layers/plies of either Bowen et al ('069) or Elmlinger ('082) must be made from a material that will survive any reasonably foreseeable potential damage that may be caused during process of delivering the outgoing and return mailing envelopes.

7.1.4 In regard to the line of weakness in claim 104, note line 66 as depicted in fig. 1 of Bowen et al ('069) or line 40 in fig. 1 of Elmlinger ('082).

7.2 Claims 102, 103 & 109, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Smallwood et al (GB 2299036).

7.3 Claims 102, 103 & 109, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being clearly anticipated by McCoy et al (6,409,592).

7.4 In regard to claims 102, 103 & 109, either Smallwood et al ('036) or McCoy et al ('592), discloses mailer comprises of a sheet of paper having an outside and an inside surfaces and where information is printed in one or more areas on the outside surface. While the area

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on the inside surface are covered by two different methods. That is the inside surface is divided into a number of areas, where a security screen is used to cover the inside surface with the exception of the areas that correspond to the areas on the outside surface on which information is printed. And wherein the areas that correspond to the areas that have information printed on the outside surface are covered by a dark solid opaque medium in Smallwood et al ('036) or an white solid opaque medium in McCoy et al ('592).

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. § 103 which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

(c) Subject matter developed by another person, which qualifies as prior art only under subsection (f) or (g) of section 102 of this title, shall not preclude patentability under this section where the subject matter and the claimed invention were, at the time the invention was made, owned by the same person or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person.

8.1 Claims 83, 84, 87 & 98-101 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over either Bowen et al (5,011,069) or Elmlinger (5,428,082) as applied to claims 82, 85, 91, 93, 94, 97, 104 & 112 and further in view of obvious considerations required by applicant's admitted requirements for processing mail.

8.1.1 In regard to claims 83, 84, 87 & 98 it is noted that the mailer of either Bowen et al ('069) or Elmlinger ('082) is for use in a postal system that uses various machines to aid in the process of processing and delivering mail. Since applicant admits that:

A) the Post Office requires a 90% readability of applied barcodes (see the last full paragraph of page 3);

B) the Post Office provides discounts for the application of information such as postal barcodes and facer identification marks (FIM) to items of mail (see the first full paragraph of page 2 and the paragraph bridging pages 2-3);

C) the Post Office uses optical character recognition (OCR) and barcode readers (BCR) to scan information applied to a mailing (see the paragraph bridging pages 1-2); and

D) the machines used by the Post Office to sort mail sometimes smears the applied barcodes so that the barcode is illegible, (see second full paragraph on page 1, "The present invention ... smeared by the post office processing equipment."); it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time the invention was made that if the user of the mailer of either Bowen et al ('069) or Elmlinger ('082) were to apply barcodes to the out going and return envelopes to obtain a postal discount, then the applied barcodes and FIMs would be placed on the envelopes at a location which:

A) may be read by the equipment used by the Post Office;

B) is protected from being rendered or made useless/illegible by the equipment used by the Post Office; and

C) has suitable contrast with the background color of the mailer so as to aid in the recognition of the barcode.

8.1.2 In regard to claims 99 & 100, it is noted that since applicant discloses that the use of FIMs reduces the associated postage costs, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time the invention was made that the FIM applied to the out going envelope could be also applied to the return envelope using the transfer process of either Bowen et al ('069) or Elmlinger ('082).

8.1.3 In regard to claim 101, note above in regard to the teachings of either Bowen et al ('069) or Elmlinger ('082).

8.2 Claim 86, 89 & 90, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over either Bowen et al (5,011,069) or Elmlinger (5,428,082) as applied to claims 82-85, 87, 91, 93, 94, 97-101, 104 & 112 and further in view of Fabel (4,461,661).

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8.2.1 In regard to claim 86, although either Bowen et al ('069) or Elmlinger ('082) does not disclose the bond of the paper used to form the various layers/plies, Fabel ('661) in the environment of making multi-ply mailers discloses a mailer composed of a number of attached layers/plies with selective carbon spotting to the multiple layers/plies in order to selectively transfer information applied to the top layer/ply to underlying layers/plies. Where Fabel ('661) further discloses that:

- A) two of the layers are combined to form the return mailing envelope;
- B) two of the layers are combined to form the outgoing mailing envelope;
- C) any suitable weight/bond of paper may be used for each layer/ply;
- D) a tear strip used to aid the recipient in opening the mailing.

8.2.2 Since each of Bowen et al ('069), Elmlinger ('082) and Fabel ('661) use similar mailers that are constructed in a similar fashion, and Fabel ('661) explicitly suggests:

- A) the need to use paper with sufficient weight/bond in order to obtain the desired result of the system of Fabel ('661); and
- B) the layers/plies of the mailing are bonded together;

it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time the invention was made that a user of the mailer of either Bowen et al ('069) or Elmlinger ('082) would use any suitable bonding means and weight/bond of paper to form each layer/ply of the mailer as taught by Fabel ('661) so as to form a complete mailer that is suitable for reaching the recipient and accomplishing the purpose of returning the reply of recipient to the original sender.

8.2.3 In regard to claims 88 & 90 and the reinforcing the right edge of the mailer so as to be processed by the mail processing equipment of the post office, since the mailer of either Bowen et al ('069) or Elmlinger ('082) or Fabel ('661) must be strong enough to be processed by post office mail processing equipment without being damaged, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time the invention was made that the leading edge of the mailer of either Bowen et al ('069) or Elmlinger ('082) or Fabel ('661), as the mailer would be processed by the mail processing equipment of the post office, must be constructed/reinforced in such a fashion so as to be form a complete mailer that is suitable for reaching the recipient and

accomplishing the purpose of returning the reply of recipient to the original sender as taught by Fabel ('661).

8.3 Claims 92, 95, 105-108, 110 & 111 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over either Bowen et al (5,011,069) or Elmlinger (5,428,082) as modified by Fabel (4,461,661) as applied to claims 82-91, 93, 94, 97-101, 104 & 112 and further in view of Ashby (5,039,000) and (In re Japikse, 86 U.S.P.Q. 70 @ 73 (CCPA, 1950)).

8.3.1 As per claims 92, 95, 105-108, 110 & 111 and the use of a tear strip on the back of the mailer and positioned along the bottom of the mailer and that opens from the left side to the right side of the mailer. It is noted that although the mailer of either Bowen et al ('069) or Elmlinger ('082) as modified by Fabel ('661) includes the use of tear strips to aid in opening the envelope, the mailer of either Bowen et al ('069) or Elmlinger ('082) as modified by Fabel ('661) does not include the use of a tear strip that opens from left to right and is positioned on the back side of the mailer along the lower/bottom edge of the mailer. However, Ashby ('000) does disclose a multiple layer/ply mailer that includes the use of a tear strip that opens from left to right and is positioned along the lower/bottom edge of the mailer in order to aid the use in opening the mailer. Since Fabel ('661) explicitly suggests using a tear strip to aid the recipient in opening the mailing, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time the invention was made that mailer of either Bowen et al ('069) or Elmlinger ('082) as modified by Fabel ('661) could be further modified to include the use of a tear strip that opens from left to right and is positioned along the lower/bottom edge of the mailer as taught by Ashby ('000) so that the mailer is suitable for reaching the recipient and accomplishing the purpose of returning the reply of recipient to the original sender.

8.3.2 In regard to the flap in claims 105-108, 110 & 111, note flap 44 as depicted in fig. 1 of Bowen et al ('069) or flap 50 as depicted in fig. 8 of Elmlinger ('082) or flap 94 as depicted in fig. 14b of Fabel ('661) or the features of the invention designated as 14, 54, 64 & 66 in fig. 4 of Ashby ('000). It is noted that all of these flaps have the same function and have been formed by sealing three of the four sides of the return envelope. Since either Bowen et al ('069) or Elmlinger ('082) or Fabel ('661) or Ashby ('000) use a flap on the return envelope in order to seal the return envelope, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the

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time the invention was made that the flap of either Bowen et al ('069) or Elmlinger ('082) as modified by Fabel ('661) and Ashby ('000) could be placed on any of the sides of the return envelope absent applicant showing of new and unexpected results from positioning the flap on a particular side of the return envelope, since the function of the flap does not change based on which side of the envelope that it may appear, for as the Court has stated it is not invention to merely move the location of a device, since the new position does not affect, i.e. modify the operation of the device, (In re Japikse, 86 U.S.P.Q. 70 @ 73 (CCPA, 1950)).

9. The following is an Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance over the prior art:

A) the prior art, for example:

(1) either Bowen et al (5,011,069) or Elmlinger (5,248,082) discloses a multiple layer/ply mailer, where the first and second layers/plies are glued together in order to form a useable return envelope, a third layer/ply above the second layer/ply contains the bill/message, a fourth layer/ply above the bill/message layer/ply is combined with the first layer/ply to form the out going envelope, and a fifth layer/ply above the fourth layer/ply that forms a removable cover sheet. Where information printed/applied on/to the cover sheet is selectively vertically transferred to the appropriate locations on the second/third/fourth layers/plies by using selectively applied image transfer coatings. Hence the first ply is shared by both the out going and reply envelopes.

(2) Calonje et al (2004/0050919), which was filed after the instant invention, discloses that presence of glue or adhesive between the plies of an envelop reinforces of stiffens the envelopes as well as the edges of the envelope.

B) however in regard to claim 96, the prior art does not teach or suggest placing the tear strip at the lower end of the envelope and which would be open from the opposite side of the envelope that would be the leading edge as processed by the mail processing equipment, as interpreted under 35 U.S.C § 112 6th paragraph.

10.

Response to applicant's arguments.

Art Unit: 3629

10.1 All rejections and objections of the previous Office action not repeated or modified and repeated here in have been over come by applicant's last response.

10.2 As per the 35 U.S.C. § 102 and 35 U.S.C. § 102 rejection of the claims 82-87, 90-95 & 97-112, in view section 7.1.2 above, and the new reference to McCoy et al (6,409,592), applicant's arguments are non persuasive.

10.2.1 It is further noted that a reply envelope that is enclosed in the out going envelope would be removable from the out going envelope and separate from the out going envelope.

11. The shorten statutory period of response is set to expire 3 (three) months from the mailing date of this Office action.


12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Edward Cosimano whose telephone number is (703) 305-9783. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Thursday from 7:30am to 6:00pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Weiss, can be reached on (703)-308-2702. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.

12.1 The fax phone number for UNOFFICIAL/DRAFT FAXES is (703) 746-7240.

12.2 The fax phone number for OFFICIAL FAXES is (703) 872-9306.

12.3 The fax phone number for AFTER FINAL FAXES is (703) 872-9306.

07/22/04


Edward R. Cosimano
Primary Examiner A.U. 3629

US-PAT-NO: 5376048

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 5376048 A

TITLE: Continuous business forms/intermediates

DATE-ISSUED: December 27, 1994

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY
Whiteside; Robert	Leicestershire	N/A	N/A	GB3

US-CL-CURRENT: 462/6, 229/69, 229/92.1, 283/116, 462/900, 462/902

ABSTRACT: A business form intermediate comprises a sheet that is Z-folded first about first and second fold lines to define an outgoing mailer. The business form has first, second and third panels with an outgoing address area on the first face of the third panel, and an O.P.A.S. patch on the first face of the first panel. The patch obscures a PIN number or other confidential information underneath it. Pressure seal adhesive formed along the margins of the paper sheet of the intermediate holds the panels together once Z-folded. Masking is applied on panel faces as necessary in order to obscure all interior information of the mailer. A reply mailer may be constructed from the second and third panels using a window in the third panel overlying reply address indicia on the second panel first face and rewettable adhesive strips on the second panel first face.

24 Claims, 13 Drawing figures

Exemplary Claim Number: 1

Number of Drawing Sheets: 11

----- KWIC -----

Abstract Text - ABTX (1): A business form intermediate comprises a sheet that is Z-folded first about first and second fold lines to define an outgoing mailer. The business form has first, second and third panels with an outgoing address area on the first face of the third panel, and an O.P.A.S. patch on the first face of the first panel. The patch obscures a PIN number or other confidential information underneath it. Pressure seal adhesive formed along the margins of the paper sheet of the intermediate holds the panels together once Z-folded. Masking is applied on panel faces as necessary in order to obscure all interior information of the mailer. A reply mailer may be constructed from the second and third panels using a window in the third panel overlying reply address indicia on the second panel first face and rewettable adhesive strips on the second panel first face.

Detailed Description Text - DETX (30): Face 59 of the central panel 61 has a masking pattern printed over most of its area but with an area 76 free to provide a blank opposite the window opening in the outgoing mailer, the area 76 for receiving an outgoing mailer return address (which may be the same as reply address 67).

Detailed Description Text - DETX (37): The customer is instructed to detach panel 60 along the perforated fold line 63 and then open out the remaining panels 61 and 62 to form an opened out return envelope as shown in FIGS. 9 and 10. The customer is now

instructed to form the remaining panels 61 and 62 into a reply envelope by reverse folding along the lines 90, 91 (inside the glue lines 83, the tabs 83' still held together by glue 83) to bring the face 58 of panel 61 into contact with face 58 of panel 62. In this position the window 73 will register with the area 67 carrying the reply address. The activatable (e.g. rewettable) adhesive at 70, 71 and 72 is then moisturized and the reply envelope/mailer 92 sealed along its three free edges at side 1, side 2 and side 3. This allows each intermediate 56 to be made into both an outgoing mailer and a reply mailer (FIG. 1) which includes an acknowledgement and/or signature. The strip adhered along adhesive line 83 remains inside the return mailer as an integral part thereof.

Claims Text - CLTX (11): 6. A business form intermediate as recited in claim 5 wherein said patch is provided on said first panel first face; and further comprising means for forming a reply mailer from said second and third panels including a reply address area on said second panel first face in alignment with said window when a reply mailer is formed, and activatable adhesive means provided on said second panel first face for holding said second and third panel first faces together when a reply mailer is formed.

Claims Text - CLTX (29): 20. A business form as recited in claim 14 wherein said patch is on said first face of said first panel; and wherein said outgoing address area is formed on said first face of said third panel; and further comprising means for forming said business form into a reply mailer, comprising lines of weakness disposed adjacent and parallel to at least some of said first through fourth edges, for allowing ready opening of said mailer type business form, a window formed in said third panel adjacent said outgoing address area, reply address indica formed on said second panel first face in alignment with said window when the reply mailer is constructed, and activatable adhesive provided on said second panel first face for sealing said second and third panels together with the first faces thereof in face-to-face contact when the reply mailer is constructed.

Claims Text - CLTX (34): means for forming said business form into a reply mailer, comprising lines of weakness disposed adjacent and parallel to at least some of said first through fourth edges, for allowing ready opening of said mailer type business form, a window formed in said third panel adjacent said outgoing address area, reply address indica formed on said second panel first face in alignment with said window when the reply mailer is constructed, and activatable adhesive provided on said second panel first face for sealing said second and third panels together with the first faces thereof in face-to-face contact when the reply mailer is constructed.

Claims Text - CLTX (40): means for forming a reply mailer from said second and third panels including a reply address area on said second panel first face in alignment with said window when a reply mailer is formed, and activatable adhesive means provided on said second panel first face for holding said second and third panel first faces together when a reply mailer is formed.

Current US Cross Reference Classification - CCXR (3): 283/116

US-PAT-NO: 5253803

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 5253803 A

TITLE: Reusable mailer

DATE-ISSUED: October 19, 1993

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY
Chess; Stanley	Jerome	ID	N/A	N/A

US-CL-CURRENT: 229/305, 229/306 , 229/314

ABSTRACT: A return mailer is provided in which the outgoing and reply addresses cannot be confused, and the mailer can be changed over from an outgoing mailer to a reply mailer with a minimum of effort. The mailer includes a number of plies including a first ply having an outgoing address visible on it, at least one insert ply, a second ply, and a third ply. A sealing agent, such as tape covered by a release sheet or rewettable glue, is associated with one of the plies for sealing the plies of a reply configuration together. The second ply has a reply address printed on its outer, second face, and a portion of it is pivotally mounted to fold over the first ply. The reply configuration of the mailer includes the first, second, and third plies disposed with respect to each other so that the third ply is pivoted about its pivot portion to a position where the second face of the third ply is readily visible, and the outgoing address is no longer visible, the third ply cooperating with the sealing agent to form a reply envelope.

5 Claims, 9 Drawing figures

Exemplary Claim Number: 1

Number of Drawing Sheets: 3

----- KWIC -----

Abstract Text - ABTX (1): A return mailer is provided in which the outgoing and reply addresses cannot be confused, and the mailer can be changed over from an outgoing mailer to a reply mailer with a minimum of effort. The mailer includes a number of plies including a first ply having an outgoing address visible on it, at least one insert ply, a second ply, and a third ply. A sealing agent, such as tape covered by a release sheet or rewettable glue, is associated with one of the plies for sealing the plies of a reply configuration together. The second ply has a reply address printed on its outer, second face, and a portion of it is pivotally mounted to fold over the first ply. The reply configuration of the mailer includes the first, second, and third plies disposed with respect to each other so that the third ply is pivoted about its pivot portion to a position where the second face of the third ply is readily visible, and the outgoing address is no longer visible, the third ply cooperating with the sealing agent to form a reply envelope.

Brief Summary Text - BSTX (2): It is desirable to provide in business forms the same basic envelope construction that can serve both as an outgoing piece and a reply piece. In order to effect this purpose, sometimes mailers have been provided with a reply address which can readily be confused with the outgoing address, resulting in the mailer being mailed to the reply address rather than the outgoing address. Postal regulations

carefully control the relative sizes and positions of outgoing and reply addresses, making it difficult to properly design an envelope that can serve as both an outgoing and reply envelope with visible indicia for both purposes. In some mailer constructions, an extra ply of paper has been utilized to form a cover ply which extends over a portion of the front face to cover and underlying reply address, the outgoing address being printed on the cover, and the cover removed to expose the reply address by the outgoing addressee. However such a construction, and like known configurations that attempt to provide a mailer entirely suitable for both outgoing and reply purposes, can be difficult to produce.

Brief Summary Text - BSTX (3): According to the present invention, a return mailer is provided which provides a ply with a return address thereon pivotally attached to other portions of the outgoing mailer and movable to a position in which it can be sealed to expose the reply address. This construction is simple and easy to make, complies with United States Postal Service regulations, and is easy to effectively use for a reply by the outgoing addressee.

Brief Summary Text - BSTX (4): According to a first aspect of the present invention, a return mailer is provided having different outgoing and reply configurations. The mailer comprises. An outgoing configuration comprising a plurality of plies, including a first ply having outgoing address indicia readily visible thereon, at least one insert ply, a second ply, and a third ply, the third ply having a first face visible in the outgoing configuration, and a second face opposite the first face and not visible in the outgoing configuration. A sealing agent associated with one of the plies of the outgoing configuration for sealing plies of a reply configuration together. The third ply has reply address indicia printed thereon on the second face, the third ply pivotally mounted at a portion thereof to one of the first and second plies. And, a reply configuration including the first, second, and third plies disposed with respect to each other so that the third ply is pivoted about the pivot portion thereof to a position wherein the second face of the third ply is readily visible, and the outgoing address is no longer visible, the third ply cooperating with the sealing agent to form a reply envelope. The sealing agent may comprise tape covered with a release sheet (e.g. transfer tape), or rewettable glue. A fly sheet may initially cover the first ply, having image transfer means for transferring the outgoing address indicia to the first ply when the fly sheet is impacted.

Brief Summary Text - BSTX (7): According to a second aspect of the present invention, a return mailer is provided comprising: A top ply having first and second side edges, a first perforation adjacent the first side edge, and an intermediate perforation. Outgoing address indicia printed on the top ply between the first perforation and the general area of the intermediate perforation. A second ply having first and second side edges, and a first perforation adjacent the first side edge, and a pivot line between the first perforation and the second edge. The second ply of approximately the same dimensions as the top ply and having first and second faces, the first face closest to the top ply. The second ply having a sealing agent disposed on the first face generally in the vicinity of the first perforation. A reply address printed on the second ply second face between the first perforation and the pivot line. And, a third ply

connected adjacent a first and second side edges thereof to the face of the second ply opposite the top ply, and removably covering the reply address.

Brief Summary Text - BSTX (8): According to a third aspect of the present invention the return mailer comprises. A top ply having first and second side edges, and a first perforation adjacent the first side edge. Outgoing address indicia printed on the top ply closer to the first side edge than the second side edge. A second ply having first and second side edges, and a first perforation adjacent the first side edge, and approximately the same dimensions as the top ply, the second ply having a sealing agent disposed on the face thereof closest to the top ply, generally in the vicinity of the first perforation. A third ply pivotally connected adjacent to a first side edge thereof to the face of the top ply opposite the second ply, and having a first face closest to the top ply, and a second face opposite the first face. The pivotal connection between the third and top plies is provided by pivotally connecting means for connecting the top and third plies together for pivotal movement along a line between the outgoing address indicia and the top ply second side edge. A reply address indicia printed on the third ply first face. And, a line of adhesive connecting the third ply to the top ply so that second side edges thereof are in substantial alignment, and a perforation formed in the third ply adjacent the line of adhesive and between the line of adhesive and the first side edge of the third ply.

Brief Summary Text - BSTX (9): It is the primary object of the present invention to provide a return mailer with preprinted outgoing and reply addresses which complies with USPS regulations, and which is easy to utilize in a reply configuration by the outgoing addressee. This and other objects of the invention will become clear from an inspection of the detailed description of the invention, and from the appended claims.

Detailed Description Text - DETX (6): In the use of the embodiment of FIG. 1, after the outgoing address is imprinted onto the fly sheet 11, being transferred by the transfer means 12 as address 14 on the first (top) ply 13, the fly sheet 11 is discarded or kept as a record copy. Then the mailer 10 is mailed. Once it is received by the outgoing addressee, he/she detaches the components at the perforations 28, 30, 31 and 33, and the insert or inserts 15 is/are removed. When it is desired to use the mailer 10 for a reply, the fold over portion 16' of ply 16 is folded/pivoted over about perf line 35, covering the area left (as viewed in FIG. 1) of perf line 28 on ply 13. The rewettable glue or tape 34 is activated so that the adhesive will stick onto the face of ply 13 sealing the reply envelope (FIG. 2) thereof. In this reply configuration illustrated in FIGS. 2 and 3, the reply address 24 is readily visible on the mailer 10 and the outgoing address is no longer visible, either having been removed with that portion of the first ply 13 between the parts 20 and 28, or if any remains, being covered up by ply portion 16.

Detailed Description Text - DETX (9): The recipient of mailer 110 opens the mailer 110 by breaking the perforations 128, 130, 131 and 133. Then he or she takes out in part 115, which will break loose at perf 143. When it is desired to use the mailer 110 for a return mailer, the recipient peels off ply 123 from plies 113 and 116, and ply 123

is torn away from paste line 132. (Due to postage regulations ply 123 may or may not be pasted top, bottom and left). When ply 123 is removed, it exposes the reply address 124 on the back of part 116. The recipient removes the release liner 40 and folds ply 116 about perf line 135 so that portion 116 thereof is over the top of ply 113. The outgoing address is either torn away with ply 128, or is covered up by part 116.

Detailed Description Text - DETX (13): In use of the return mailer 40 of FIG. 5, after printing the fly sheet 41 is removed, and then it is mailed, with the outgoing address 47 readily visible. Once the outgoing addressee receives the form 40, he/she removes the right portion (as viewed in FIGS. 5 and 6) thereof at the perforations 53, and 56 and paste line or spot 59. This exposes the sealing agent 54 and insert poly (plies) 44 (see FIG. 6). Then to change the configuration of the form 40 to the reply configuration, the addressee detaches the third ply 46 at the perforations 51, 60, 61, 62 and folds it about the score line 50 from the position illustrated in FIG. 6 to the position illustrated in FIG. 7. In this configuration, the third ply 46 covers the sealing agent 54, which has been activated (e.g. wet) so that the third ply 46 sticks to it. On what had previously been the inner face of the third ply 46, and is now the outer face (see FIG. 7), the reply address 58 is printed. Thus only the reply address is visible in the completed reply configuration of FIG. 7.

Detailed Description Text - DETX (15): In this embodiment, the sealing agent is shown in general by reference numeral 154 in FIG. 8, but is more visible in this embodiment in FIG. 9. A score line 60 is formed in the second ply 145 adjacent the sealing agent 154. In this embodiment also, the third ply 146 is slightly shorter between the score line 150 and the perforation 151 than in the FIG. 5 embodiment. Once the third ply 146 has been pivoted about score line 150 to a position in which the reply address 158 is visible, then the second ply 145 is pivoted about the score line 160 so that the sealing agent (e.g. rewettable adhesive) 154 comes into contact with the third ply 158, sealing the reply configuration of the mailer.

Detailed Description Text - DETX (16): It will thus be seen that according to the present invention a return mailer has been provided on which only the outgoing or the reply address, not both, is visible at any one time. The mailer is relatively easy to construct, and easy to use by the outgoing addressee. While the invention has been herein shown and described in what is presently conceived to be the most practical and preferred embodiment thereof it will be apparent to those of ordinary skill in the art that many modifications may be made thereof within the scope of the invention, which scope is to be accorded the broadest interpretation of the appended claims so as to cover all equivalent structures and products.

Current US Original Classification - CCOR (1): 229/305

US-PAT-NO: 3507519

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 3507519 A

TITLE: FORM LETTER AND ENVELOPE WITH INTEGRAL RETURN
ENVELOPE AND CUSTOMER AND RETURN STUBS

----- KWIC -----

OCR Scanned Text - LPAR (4): 3 to the joined sides 13B, 13T or in effect the opposing first and second side edges along a line intermediate the opposing side edges 14T, 14B and 15T, 15B to divide the upper sheet 10 and the bottom sheet 11 into first and second sections F10, F11 and S10 and S11, respectively. The first sections F10, F11 of sheets 10 and 11 are secured together in any suitable manner such as the adhesive at 30, 31, 32 to form a return envelope section with those sections of the sheets 10, 11 unseparated even when the perforations 20B, 20T, 21B, 21T are torn. For purposes of description and claims, it may be said that the adhesive 30 extends along a line in a position to join the sheets along a line in the first sections of the sheets 10, 11 along one of their first and second side edges 12T, 12B inwardly of the tear perforation lines 20T, 20B; extends at 31 adjacent the cross tear perforation lines 25T, 25B and at 32 adjacent the third side edge 14T, 14B. It will be noted that there is no adhesive adjacent the side edges 13T, 13B of the first sections F10, F11 so that an envelope flap along the unsecured perforation lines 21T, 21B is obtained between the upper and lower sheets of the return envelope section comprised of the aforementioned sections F10, F11. It is preferred that a layer of dry gum adhesive 35 be applied to the upper surface of the first section of the bottom or second sheet 11 along the unsecured tear perforation line 21B as shown to enable the flap portions of the return envelope to be sealed together when it is desired to use the envelope. Although the invention is being described and claimed as a single combination business form, it should be understood that an unlimited number of such forms may be serially attached together by cross tear perforations along their opposing side edges 14T, 14B and 15T, 15B so that the forms may be run through conventional business automation equipment in a continuous fashion. In order to feed each business form through a business machine and typewriter, the business form drive perforations such as shown at 40, 41 are provided along each of the opposing side edges 12T, 12B, 13T, 13B. Referring more particular to FIG. I of the drawings, the underside of the second section S10 of the upper or first sheet 10 is provided with a transfer carbon surface 42 which will enable a business typewriter, operated without its own carbon ribbon, to print through the second section S10 of the first sheet 10 onto the upper surface of the second section S11 of the second sheet 11 with a desired message. In addition, the business machine typewriter, when operating with its carbon ribbon, can type the address for the transmittal envelope portion on the upper surface of the second section S10 of the top of first sheet 10 and if such typing occurs over the carbon surface 42 it will also be reproduced on the upper surface S11 of the bottom or second sheet 11. The bottom surface of the first section F11 of the bottom or second sheet 11 forming the face of the return envelope is preprinted as shown with the return address of the sender. The second section S11 of only the bottom or second sheet 11 is provided with an exclusive tear perforation 50B extending as shown from the cross tear perforation 25B to the fourth opposing side 15B at a point intermediate the

opposing sides 12B, 13B to divide the second section SII into two subsections as shown at SIIR and SIIC. Subsection SLIR may be pre-printed and typed with information corresponding to a return statement or bill stub and subsection S11C may be similarly marked with information corresponding to a customer's stub to be retained by the customer. Additional pre-printed messages may be placed on the undersurface of the section SIO of the upper or first sheet 10 in those areas not covered with the carbon transfer surface 42. Referring now to FIG. 3 of the drawings, after the business form of the invention is discharged from the computer printer or otherwise prepared, it is folded along the cross tear perforation line 25T with the upper surface 3)507)519 4 face of the second section SIO of the upper sheet having the address of the recipient thereon exposed and with the undersides of the bottom or second sheet 11 along the opposing side edges 14B, 15B joined by spot adhesive such as shown at 51 to thus comprise the transmittal form of the invention. As shown by FIG. 4 of the drawings, when the customer or recipient desires to open the form, the tear perforations along lines 20T, 20B, and 21T, 21B, are torn following which the upper and bottom sheets 10 and 11 may be unfolded by separating the joined edges 14B and 15B. Referring now to FIG. 5 of the drawings, the next step in opening the form is to tear along the tear perforation lines 25T, 25B to separate the first sections FIO, FII that remain joined as a return envelope as previously described. The upper sheet second section SIO may be read then discarded. The lower sheet second section SII may be torn along the exclusive perforation line 50B 20 to separate the customer and return subsection stubs SLIC and SLIR as shown. Thereafter, if desired, the customer or recipient can place the return stub S11R in the return envelope FIO and FII along with any message, check, etc., for subsequent mailing. 25 It should be understood that the above described procedure for opening the form when received is illustrative only since there could be a different succession of the steps followed as described, depending on individual preference. 30 Various modifications will occur to those skilled in the art. What is claimed is: 1. A form letter and envelope with integral return envelope and customer and return stubs comprising first 35 and second letter sheets each having a first pair of opposing first and second side edges and a second pair of opposing third and fourth side edges, said sheets being secured together along their first and second side edges, first and second tear perforations through both sheets 40 extending along the inner sides of the respective secured first and second side edges, a cross tear perforation through both sheets extending from said first and second edges intermediate said third and fourth edges to form first and second sections of each sheet, the first section 45 of each sheet being secured together along one of their first and second side edges inwardly of the adjacent tear perforations and along the cross tear perforations and the third side edges to form the first section into a return envelope section, a transfer carbon surface underlying 50 the second section of the first sheet to enable a message to be type therethrough onto the upper surface of the second section of the underlying second sheet, said second sheet only having an exclusive tear perforation on its second section extending from the cross tear perforation 55 to the fourth side edge along a line intermediate the first and second side edges to form its second section into a pair of subsection customer and return stubs, and means to adhesively secure the underside of the second section of the second sheet along its fourth side edge to 60 the underside of the first section of the second sheet along its third side edge whereby the form may be

folded along the cross perforation with its third edge secured to its fourth edge to form a transmittal letter and envelope which may thereafter be unfolded and opened by separating the third and fourth edges, tearing along the first, second and cross perforations to form a separate return envelope of said first section of the first and second sheets and to form separate sheets of said second sections, and whereby the second section of the second sheet may be torn along said exclusive tear perforation to form separate customer and return stubs. 2. The invention of claim 1 in which the top side of the first section of the second sheet is provided with adhesive along the unsecured side edge inwards of the tear

OCR Scanned Text - LPAR (5): 5 perforation line to form return envelope flap securing means. 3. The invention of claim 2 in which the underside of the first section of the second sheet is pre-printed with a return envelope address. 4. The invention of claim 1 in which the underside of the first section of the second sheet is pre-printed with a return envelope address. 5. The invention of claim 1 in which the upper side of the second section of the second sheet is pre-printed with information corresponding to the customer and return stub subsections. 6. The invention of claim 1 in which the underside of the second section of the first sheet is provided with a pre-printed message in areas exclusive of the carbon coated surface. 7. The invention of claim 1 in which the upper surface of the second section of the first sheet is pre-printed with the return address of the form transmitter. 8. The invention of claim 1 having business form perforations along at least one of said first and second side edges. References Cited UNITED STATES PATENTS 2,847,235 8/1958 Blumenthal ----- 282-25 X 3,255,952 6/1966 Black ----- 229-73 10 3,419,286 12/1968 Noonan et al ----- 282-11.5 JEROME SCHNALL, Primary Examiner U.S. Cl. X.R. 15 229-69, 7.3; 282-11.5

Current US Cross Reference Classification - CCXR (1): 229/305

US-PAT-NO: 4898322

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 4898322 A

TITLE: Automated machine envelope

DATE-ISSUED: February 6, 1990

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY
Coffey; James B.	Dayton	OH	N/A	N/A
Gwynn; Leslie B.	Winston-Salem	NC	N/A	N/A

US-CL-CURRENT: 229/69, 229/301 , 229/92.1

ABSTRACT: A business form for use in an automated teller machine for business transactions. The business form is constructed of multiple plies to provide the user with a receipt of the transaction and to provide an envelope for enclosing a deposit slip or copy of the receipt for use by the business entity. The business form provides a means for both parties to have a copy of the business transaction for verification thereof.

20 Claims, 4 Drawing figures

Exemplary Claim Number: 1

Number of Drawing Sheets: 3

----- KWIC -----

Detailed Description Text - DETX (20): As illustrated in FIG. 1, the additional plies 40, 42 and 44 of the business form or unit set 10 are designed with the glued stub portion 52 attached to the leading edge of the form as produced on the collator. The location of the glued stub portion 52 and the line of perforations 48 are strategically located on the leading edge of the form 10. The location of the glued stub portion 52 on the leading edge prevents ragged or dog-eared edges of the additional plies, as 40, 42 and 44, in the process of collating. The line of perforations 48 is located away from the leading edge of the form to provide ample strength when undergoing the dot gluing operation and thereby prevents shingling of the finished unit set. The line of perforations 48 is also located to provide that the receipt or lower portion 50 can be conveniently placed or inserted in a flat, unfolded condition by the customer into the pocket or pouch formed by the back ply 12 and the intermediate ply 20. Similar conditions exist in the production of the business form 62, illustrated in FIG. 3.

US-PAT-NO: 5307989

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 5307989 A

TITLE: Two way mailer with external "insert"

DATE-ISSUED: May 3, 1994

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY
Dyer; Michael C.	Gurnee	IL	N/A	N/A

US-CL-CURRENT: 229/305, 229/304 , 229/306 , 229/314

ABSTRACT: A return mailer type business form has a top ply through which outgoing address information is visible, and a second ply with a reply address printed on its back. The back of the second ply is covered by a removable third ply when used as an outgoing mailer. After receipt by the addressee, the first ply is detached along a perforation line on the first face, and a flap on the second ply is folded about a score line to close the reply envelope formed by the remaining part of the top ply and the second ply, and to cover any further outgoing address information visible by viewing the first ply. The outgoing address information may be printed on the second ply and visible through a window in the first ply, or may be printed on the first ply.

18 Claims, 6 Drawing figures

Exemplary Claim Number: 1

Number of Drawing Sheets: 3

----- KWIC -----

Abstract Text - ABTX (1): A return mailer type business form has a top ply through which outgoing address information is visible, and a second ply with a reply address printed on its back. The back of the second ply is covered by a removable third ply when used as an outgoing mailer. After receipt by the addressee, the first ply is detached along a perforation line on the first face, and a flap on the second ply is folded about a score line to close the reply envelope formed by the remaining part of the top ply and the second ply, and to cover any further outgoing address information visible by viewing the first ply. The outgoing address information may be printed on the second ply and visible through a window in the first ply, or may be printed on the first ply.

Brief Summary Text - BSTX (4): According to one aspect of the present invention a return mailer is provided which comprises the following parts: A first ply having a first face and a second face, and outgoing address indicia visible when viewing a first portion of the first face, and extending in a first direction. A first line formed in the first ply intersecting the outgoing address indicia. A second ply having a first face and a second face, the first face of the second ply in face to face contact with the second face of the first ply. A second line formed in the second ply in alignment with the first line, and defining a first part of the second ply, and a second part of the second ply, the first part of the second ply having a length in the first direction sufficient so that when it is folded over the first ply about the second line it completely covers any remaining outgoing address indicia visible when viewing the first ply. Reply address information

printed wholly on the second face of the second part of the second ply. Means for attaching the first and second plies together to form a reply envelope. And, a third ply removably attached to the second ply to cover the second ply second face second portion, and when removed exposing the reply address.

Brief Summary Text - BSTX (7): According to the first embodiment of the invention the return mailer thus comprises: A top ply having a window, and having a first, outer, face, and a second, interior, face. A second ply cooperating with the top ply and having a first, inner, face cooperating with the top ply second face, and having outgoing address information printed thereon beneath the window, and visible through the window, and extending in a first direction; and a second face having reply indicia printed thereon. A score line formed in the second ply and defining a flap portion, and a body portion, the reply address indicia being provided wholly in the body portion. A sealing agent disposed on the second ply first face on an endmost area of the flap portion. The flap portion having a length sufficient, when the second ply is folded about the score line and attached by the sealing agent to the top ply, to completely cover an outgoing address indicia on the second ply first face, and any portion of the window of the top ply. Adhesive means for attaching the top and second plies together to form an outgoing and reply envelope. And, means for removably covering the reply address indicia on the second ply when the mailer is used as an outgoing mailer.

Brief Summary Text - BSTX (8): The second embodiment of return mailer according to the present invention thus comprises the following elements: A top ply having outgoing address information printed on a first face thereof, and extending in a first direction, the top ply also having a second, interior, face. A second ply cooperating with the top ply and having a first, inner, face cooperating with the top ply second face, and a second face having reply indicia printed thereon. A score line formed in the second ply and defining a flap portion, and a body portion, the reply address indicia being provided wholly in the body portion. A sealing agent disposed on the second ply first face on an endmost area of the flap portion. The flap portion having a length sufficient, when the second ply is folded about the score line, to completely cover any outgoing address indicia on the top ply. Adhesive means for attaching the top and second plies together to form an outgoing and reply envelope. And, means for removably covering the reply address indicia on the second ply when the mailer is used as an outgoing mailer.

Detailed Description Text - DETX (7): The second ply 29 also includes reply address indicia 49, which may include bar coding 50, and may also include a place for placing a stamp 51, and printed lines for a return address 52, on a second face 45 of the second ply 29. The adhesive 33, 43 --and ultimately the sealing agent 41--cooperate to form the return envelope.

Detailed Description Text - DETX (8): The return mailer in the first embodiment also comprises a third ply 55 (FIG. 4) which is removably attached to the second ply 29 to cover the second ply second face 45, but when removed exposing the reply address 49. The third ply 55 has a first face 56 which--in the outgoing configuration of the mailer

(FIG. 5)--engages the second face 45 of the second ply 29. The third ply 55 may be tinted so that the reply address 49 is not easily readable through it. Also the third ply 55 is illustrated having the same size and shape as the second ply 29, but it can be shorter if desired, just so that it is large enough to cover all of the return address characters 49 through 51. If a shorter fluid ply is utilized, some means of adhesive should be used to secure the short sheet to the second face of record ply 45.

Detailed Description Text - DETX (10): In use of the mailer of FIGS. 1 through 5, in its outgoing configuration of FIG. 5 when it is mailed out, the outgoing address 19, 32 is clearly visible from the top of the first ply 11, and no other address information is visible. When the mailer is received by the addressee, he/she detaches the undesired portion of the first ply 11 using the notch 23 and separating it at the perforation 22, and removes the unwanted portion of the second ply 29 by using the notch 39 and detaching along the perforation 38. At the same time, the third ply is detached at the perforation 62, and the edge of the third ply is grabbed and the entire third ply 55 is removed from cooperation with the second ply 29, exposing the reply address 49, 50 on the back face 45 of the second ply 29. The information 57 is read by the outgoing addressee, and when he/she is then ready to return the reply envelope, after insertion of any desired sheets between the plies 11, 29, the second ply 29 is folded about the score line 40, the rewettable adhesive 41 is wet (or the transfer tape has the release covering removed), and the first part 46 of the second ply 29 is folded about the score line 40 until the adhesive/sealing agent 41 engages the face 12 of the first ply 11, thus completing the return envelope. A stamp may be placed at place 51, and then the envelope is mailed to the reply address 49, 50.

Claims Text - CLTX (14): 6. A mailer as recited in claim 1 wherein said outgoing and reply address indicia include bar coding.

Claims Text - CLTX (33): means for removably covering said reply address indicia on said second ply when said mailer is used as an outgoing mailer.

Current US Original Classification - CCOR (1): 229/305

Current US Cross Reference Classification - CCXR (1): 229/304

US-PAT-NO: 5324927

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 5324927 A

TITLE: Return mail piece and method of marking the same

DATE-ISSUED: June 28, 1994

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY
Williams; Robert L.	Omaha	NE	N/A	N/A

US-CL-CURRENT: 235/494, 209/584 , 229/68.1 , 283/116

ABSTRACT: A return mail piece includes a generally rectangular sheet of material with a delimited mailing address zone, a bar code zone in the lower right corner of the sheet, and a subclassification zone in the upper left hand corner of the sheet. Site location indicia is printed within the mailing address zone to identify the address of the site location. Separate subclassification indicia is printed within the subclassification zone so as to identify one of a plurality of end locations as the site location.

13 Claims, 2 Drawing figures

Exemplary Claim Number: 1,12

Number of Drawing Sheets: 1

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Detailed Description Text - DETX (7): The present inventor provides additional classifying information in the return address zone 26 of envelope 10, as shown in FIG. 2. Information may be provided in the form of printed characters 36, utilizing letters and/or numerals. However, conventional characters 36 are not located so as to be machine readable utilizing conventional automatic processing equipment. For this reason, the preferred embodiment of the invention utilizes an inverted bar code 38 which is oriented upside down with respect to the orientation of the mailing address zone 22 and bar code zone 24. Thus, for purposes of automating, the return address zone 26 is preferably delimited using the same bar code zone 24 delimitations but in the opposite corner of the envelope. In this way, all of the return mail pieces 10 may be simply inverted and run through a conventional bar code reader of an automatic mail processing apparatus to further sort or classify the return mail pieces.

Current US Cross Reference Classification - CCXR (3): 283/116

US-PAT-NO: 5346124

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 5346124 A

TITLE: Certified mailer

DATE-ISSUED: September 13, 1994

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY
Chess; Stanley C.	Jerome	ID	N/A	N/A

US-CL-CURRENT: 229/305, 229/306

ABSTRACT: A return mailer has both the outgoing address and the reply address printed on the top face of the top ply, which with a bottom ply forms both the outgoing and reply envelopes. The reply address is covered by a return receipt having a certified or insured or registered mail number on the top face, and receipt addressee information (substantially the same as the reply address) on the bottom face, or the reply address may be covered by a simple sheet of paper. A perforation intersects the outgoing address area of the top ply, and the bottom ply has a fold line aligned with the perforation to define a return envelope flap, having a sealing agent on the top face. A readily removable insert ply is preferably disposed between the top and bottom plies, and the bottom ply bottom face is devoid of address indicia.

25 Claims, 5 Drawing figures

Exemplary Claim Number: 1

Number of Drawing Sheets: 4

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Abstract Text - ABTX (1): A return mailer has both the outgoing address and the reply address printed on the top face of the top ply, which with a bottom ply forms both the outgoing and reply envelopes. The reply address is covered by a return receipt having a certified or insured or registered mail number on the top face, and receipt addressee information (substantially the same as the reply address) on the bottom face, or the reply address may be covered by a simple sheet of paper. A perforation intersects the outgoing address area of the top ply, and the bottom ply has a fold line aligned with the perforation to define a return envelope flap, having a sealing agent on the top face. A readily removable insert ply is preferably disposed between the top and bottom plies, and the bottom ply bottom face is devoid of address indicia.

Brief Summary Text - BSTX (3): One approach to providing a return mailer business form which overcomes the drawbacks set forth above is illustrated and described in copending application Ser. No. 07/903,280 filed Jun. 24, 1992 (Atty Ref: 263-722, 91-26 (091)), in which the outgoing address visible on the top ply of the mailer is ultimately covered up by folding over the flap of the second ply of the mailer, and which has the reply address information printed on the bottom face of the second ply (having the return envelope flap). While such a return mailer is advantageous in a number of situations, it requires a third ply to cover the reply address, adhesively connected thereto, otherwise it may not comply with postal regulations, and has an unusual opening procedure.

Brief Summary Text - BSTX (4): According to the present invention a return mailer is provided which has the same advantages as the mailer described in said copending application, but additionally can provide a conventional insert and has a normal opening procedure. Also, the return mailer according to the present invention is preferably associated with a return receipt. A return receipt is a receipt for registered, certified, or insured mail with an identifying number thereon, and with receipt addressee indicia, facilitating mailing back to the organization sending out the certified, registered, or insured piece of mail. The return receipt covers the reply address on the top face of the top ply of the mailer, and when the return receipt is removed, the reply address for the return envelope is readily visible. Also, when opening up the mailer, the outgoing address is mutilated and/or covered up by folding over of the return envelope flap so that only the reply address is visible on the return envelope.

Brief Summary Text - BSTX (5): According to one aspect of the present invention, a return mailer is provided which comprises the following elements: A top ply having an outgoing address area for receiving outgoing address indicia visible when viewing a top face thereof, and extending in a first direction, the top ply also having a bottom face. A first line of weakness formed in the top ply extending substantially transverse to the first direction and intersecting or adjacent the outgoing address indicia visible when viewing the top face of the top ply, the first line of weakness defining the top ply into a body portion and a stub portion. A second ply connected to and cooperating with the top ply to forming an outgoing and reply envelope, the second ply having a top face facing the top ply bottom face, and a bottom face, the bottom face being devoid of address indicia. A first fold line formed in the second ply in substantial alignment with the first line of weakness and defining the second ply into a body portion, and a flap portion. A sealing agent disposed on the second ply top face on an endmost area of the flap portion. The flap portion having a length sufficient, when the second ply is folded about the first fold line, to completely cover any outgoing address indicia visible when viewing the top face of the top ply within the outgoing address area. Reply address indicia visible when viewing the top face of the top ply body portion, remote from the outgoing address area. And means for removably covering the reply address indicia.

Brief Summary Text - BSTX (8): According to another aspect of the present invention a return mailer is provided comprising the following elements: A top ply having an outgoing address area for receiving outgoing address indicia visible when viewing a top face thereof, the top ply also having a bottom face. A second ply connected to and cooperating with the top ply to forming an outgoing and reply envelope, the second ply having a top face facing the top ply bottom face, and a bottom face, the bottom face being devoid of address indicia. A first fold line formed in the second ply defining the second ply into a body portion, and a flap portion. A sealing agent disposed on the second ply top face on an endmost area of the flap portion. Reply address indicia visible when viewing the top face of the top ply body portion, remote from the outgoing address area. And a return receipt for removably covering the reply address indicia, and having a top face visible when viewing the top face of the top ply, the top face

having a certified or insured or registered mail number thereon, and a bottom face, the bottom face having receipt addressee indicia thereon.

Brief Summary Text - BSTX (9): According to still another aspect of the present invention, another embodiment of return mailer is provided comprising the following elements: A top ply having an outgoing address area with outgoing address indicia printed thereon, the top ply also having a bottom face. A second ply connected to and cooperating with the top ply to forming an outgoing and reply envelope, the second ply having a top face facing the top ply bottom face, and a bottom face, the bottom face being devoid of address indicia. Reply address indicia printed on the top face of the top ply body portion, remote from the outgoing address area, the reply address indicia and the outgoing address indicia extending in the same, first, direction. And a return receipt for removably covering the reply address indicia, and having a top face visible when viewing the top face of the top ply, the top face having a certified or insured or registered mail number thereon, and a bottom face, the bottom face having receipt addressee indicia thereon.

Detailed Description Text - DETX (3): The return mailer 10 also comprises a return receipt 13, which also functions as a means to cover a reply address printed on the underlying, "top", ply 14 of the mailer 10 as will be hereinafter described. The mailer 10 also comprise an insert ply 15 and a second, or bottom, ply 16.

Detailed Description Text - DETX (9): The mailer 13 also comprises reply address indicia 45 (see FIGS. 2 and 5) preferably printed on the top face of the top ply 14, underlying the main body portion of the return receipt 13, and covered by the return receipt 13 until receipt 13 is detached from the rest of the mailer 10 at the perforation lines 18 (FIG. 5 illustrates the return receipt 13 so detached). The indicia 45 also can be printed via carbon spot on an overlying sheet (e.g. on the back of ply 13 if merely a cover sheet). The reply address indicia 45, which preferably includes human readable indicia, as well as bar code, is preferably substantially identical to receipt addressee indicia 45' (see FIG. 2) printed on the bottom face of the return receipt 13 (that is the face thereof opposite the certified, registered, or insured indicia 21). Also, on the top face of the top ply 14 underlying the return receipt 13 there may be lines 46 for return address indicia associated with the reply envelope, the reply envelope being shown generally by reference numeral 47 in FIG. 5.

Detailed Description Text - DETX (15): Once the outgoing addressee is ready to send back the return envelope 47 to the reply address 45 (which is now readily visible on the top face of the top ply 14), he/she inserts whatever information is necessary into the reply envelope 47, and then folds the flap 43 about the fold line 31. The rewettable adhesive 33 is activated so as to seal the flap 43 in place, the adhesive 33 engaging the top face of the top ply 14. The flap 43 of the return envelope 47 has a sufficient width so that it covers any outgoing address indicia 23 still visible in the area 24, and at the same time covers the certified number (or other like indicia) 21 that is printed on the top face of the top ply 14. However, when the reply addressee receives the reply envelope 47, the reply addressee may open the envelope by tearing along the

fold/perforation line 31, and the certified number indicia 21 can be viewed by bending back the flap 43.

Claims Text - CLTX (11): 3. A mailer as recited in claim 1 wherein said means for removably covering said reply address indicia comprises a return receipt.

Claims Text - CLTX (22): 14. A mailer as recited in claim 1 wherein said reply address indicia is printed on said top face of said top ply, and wherein outgoing address indicia is printed on said top face of said top ply within said outgoing address area, and wherein said reply address indicia also extends in said first direction.

Claims Text - CLTX (32): 18. A mailer as recited in claim 15 wherein said reply address indicia is printed on said top face of said top ply, and wherein outgoing address indicia is printed on said top face of said top ply within said outgoing address area, and wherein said reply address indicia and said outgoing address indicia extend in the same, first, direction.

Current US Original Classification - CCOR (1): 229/305

PGPUB-DOCUMENT-NUMBER: 20040050919
PGPUB-FILING-TYPE: new
DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 20040050919 A1
TITLE: Mailing and response envelope
PUBLICATION-DATE: March 18, 2004
INVENTOR-INFORMATION:
NAME CITY STATE COUNTRY RULE-47
Calonje, Ligia S. Los Gatos CA US
Carrillo, Roy Los Gatos CA US
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US-CL-CURRENT: 229/306, 229/305

ABSTRACT: A mailing and response envelope for conveying an item from a sender to a recipient and back is disclosed. The envelope comprises a base panel, a sender address panel, and a recipient address panel. The sender address panel is affixed to the base panel by an adhesive region. The sender address panel and adhesive region define a pocket sized to accept an item. The adhesive region extends laterally on the base panel in an amount selected to ensure that a postal cancellation is not applied to an area overlying the item. The recipient address panel is joined to the base panel by a detachable joint. In this configuration, a fragile item may be conveyed from the sender to the recipient and from the recipient back to the sender without damage to the item.

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Detail Description Paragraph - DETX (27): [0046] As seen in FIG. 4, adhesive region 110 may be formed as a plurality of distinct adhesive sub-regions, for reducing the amount of adhesive required per envelope without detracting from the stiffness property provided by the presence of adhesive. In one embodiment, a generally elongated first adhesive sub-region 110A connects three other adhesive sub-regions 110B, 110C, 110D. The drawing of FIG. 4 is not to scale and the dimensions therein are approximate. In one embodiment, each adhesive sub-region 110B, 110C, 110D has a lateral width 140 of approximately 3" and a height 142 of approximately 1". The first adhesive sub-region 110A may be approximately 3/8" in width.

Detail Description Paragraph - DETX (42): [0061] Panels 602, 604 are affixed to one another by adhesive strips along the upper edge 604A and lower edge 604B thereof, and by a planar region of adhesive 612 oriented below the label 606. In this configuration, panels 602, 604 form a pocket having a leading edge that is made relatively stiff by adhesive 612, and having an open end underlying perforation line 614. An item for transport from a sender to a recipient and back from the recipient to the sender may be carried in the pocket.

DERWENT-ACC-NO: 1996-415042

DERWENT-WEEK: 199642

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TITLE: Coated paper for the mfr. of printed security documents - comprising a base paper coated with a totally opaque first coating and then a second coating that provides a surface suitable for printing

INVENTOR: BAUM, A; MOLINEUX, R ; PHILIPPIDES, A ; SMALLWOOD, C ; TAYLOR, D S

PRIORITY-DATA: 1995GB-0005809 (March 22, 1995)

PATENT-FAMILY:

PUB-NO	PUB-DATE	LANGUAGE	PAGES	MAIN-IPC
GB 2299036 A	September 25, 1996	N/A	011	D21H 019/82
INT-CL (IPC): D21H019/82				

ABSTRACTED-PUB-NO: GB 2299036A

BASIC-ABSTRACT:

A coated paper, useful for the mfr. of security documents, has applied to at least one face of a base paper an opaque first coating, which cannot be seen through, and a second coating that provides a surface suitable for printing. A scratch lottery ticket comprising the above coated paper is also claimed.

USE - For mfg. tokens, tallies, tickets, etc., esp. scratch lottery tickets having an abradable top coating, which can be removed to reveal printed information.

ADVANTAGE - The first coating is totally opaque, so that the printed security information cannot be seen from the reverse side, and the coated paper is resistant to tampering. Use of a low tear resistance base paper makes it more difficult for a forger to delaminate the ticket and transfer the printed information.